

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A bacterial production host comprising:

- a) a plasmid comprising:
 - (i) a target gene to be expressed; and
 - (ii) a replicon controlled by antisense-RNA regulation; and
- b) a mutation in a gene selected from the group consisting of *thrS*, *rpsA*, *rpoC*, *yjeR*, and ~~and~~ *rhoL* wherein the nucleotide sequence of the mutated *thrS* gene is SEQ ID NO:19; the nucleotide sequence of the mutated *rpsA* gene is SEQ ID NO:21; the nucleotide sequence of the mutated *rpoC* gene is SEQ ID NO:22; the nucleotide sequence of the mutated *yjeR* gene is SEQ ID NO:23; and the sequence of the mutated *rhoL* gene is SEQ ID NO:25.

Claim 2 (original): A bacterial production host according to Claim 1 wherein the host is *E. coli*.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A bacterial production host ~~according to Claim 2~~ comprising:

- a) a plasmid comprising:
 - (i) a target gene to be expressed; and
 - (ii) a replicon controlled by anti-sense RNA regulation; and
- b) a mutation in a gene selected from the group consisting of *thrS*, *rpsA*, *rpoC*, *yjeR*, and *rhoL* where the mutation of the *thrS* gene is at the 1798679 base of the *E. coli* chromosome; the mutation of the *rpsA* gene is at 962815 base of the *E. coli* chromosome; the mutation of the *rpoC* gene is at 4187062 base of the *E. coli* chromosome; the mutation of the *yjeR* gene is at 4389704 base of the *E. coli* chromosome; and the mutation of the *rhoL* gene is at 3963892 base of the *E. coli* chromosome;

wherein the bacterial production host is *E. coli*.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A bacterial production host according to any of Claims 1-3 wherein the plasmid of step (a) comprises a replicon selected from the group consisting of p15A and pMB1.

Claim 5 (original): A bacterial production host according to any of Claims 1-3 wherein the target gene encodes a polypeptide useful in the production of a genetic end product selected from the group consisting of isoprenoids, carotenoids, terpenoids, tetrapyrroles, polyketides, vitamins, amino acids, fatty acids, proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, antimicrobial agents, anticancer agents, polyhydroxyalkanoic acid synthases, nitrilases, nitrile hydratases, amidases, enzymes used in the production of synthetic silk proteins, pyruvate decarboxylases, alcohol dehydrogenases, and biological metabolites.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A bacterial production host according to any of Claims 1-3 wherein the target gene is selected from the group consisting of *crtE*, *crtB*, *crtI*, *crtY*, *crtX* and ~~and~~ *crtZ*.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A bacterial production host according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1-3~~ selected from the group consisting of *Pseudomonas*, *Shewanella*, *Erwinia*, *Proteus*, *Enterobacter*, *Actinobacillus*, *Yersinia*, and *Pantoea*.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A bacterial production host according to Claim 1 ~~any of Claims 1-3~~ wherein the host is an enteric bacteria.

Claim 9 (original): A bacterial production host according to claim 8 selected from the group consisting of *Escherichia* and *Salmonella*.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method for the expression of a target gene comprising:

- a) providing a ~~an~~ bacterial production host according to any one of Claims 1-3 ~~comprising a target gene to be expressed; and~~

- b) growing the bacterial production host ~~microorganism~~ of step (a) under suitable conditions wherein the target gene is expressed.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to Claim 10 wherein the target gene encodes a polypeptide useful in the production of a genetic end product selected from the group consisting of isoprenoids, carotenoids, terpenoids, tetrapyrroles, polyketides, vitamins, amino acids, fatty acids, proteins, nucleic acids, carbohydrates, antimicrobial agents, anticancer agents, poly-hydroxyalkanoic acid synthases, nitrilases, nitrile hydratases, amidases, enzymes used in the production of synthetic silk proteins, pyruvate decarboxylases, alcohol dehydrogenases, and biological metabolites.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method according to Claim 11 wherein the target gene is selected from the group consisting of *crtE*, *crtB*, *crtI*, *crtY*, *crtX* and ~~and~~ *crtZ*.